

SAFETY ALERT



HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES FORCES - IRAQ
BAGHDAD, IRAQ
APO AE 09342-1400

JUN 17 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Fire Prevention

1. Several recent serious fires resulted in a Soldier death, several others injured, more than \$462,000 in property damage, and the loss of mission critical equipment. During a routine dining facility kitchen improvement project, a Soldier used a heat gun to soften flooring adhesive when the fumes ignited and resulted in serious burns from which he later died. Two other Soldiers were injured during the rescue attempt. The fire completely destroyed the facility and all associated equipment.
2. Electrical and negligence are the leading cause of fires in Iraq Joint Area of Operations. The entire Command will enforce fire preventive practices to ensure safe working and living environments. When individuals disregard safety and preventive measures, the likelihood of a fire is greatly increased. Commanders and leaders will remain proficient on fire prevention so they will be able to recognize and eliminate the hazards associated with fire.
3. To alleviate the hazards that lead to fires, we will maintain a stringent Fire Inspection Program to identify and assist the Mayor Cell prioritize an abatement program. These inspections are conducted by the Unit Fire Wardens as well as Task Force SAFE Fire Protection Specialists and Fire Department Fire Inspectors. The Fire Inspectors will conduct fire prevention inspections of all facilities and areas under the jurisdiction of the local Commander. Those items that can be corrected on the spot will be corrected prior to the departure of the Inspector. Deficiencies and hazards that have a direct impact on life safety will be annotated and sent directly to the Unit Commander or Activity Director and the Mayor's Cell for that area for immediate corrective action.
4. We must maintain our focus on fire prevention. Commanders must be innovative, committed, and make a difference in protecting our Soldiers, civilians, and contractor personnel. Failure to execute and enforce fire and electrical safety procedures is not acceptable. We must continue to ensure the right risk decisions are made to avoid senseless accidents as described above. Safety is our top priority.

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ROBERT W. CONE
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Commanding General
Operations

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